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CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Ratification of or accession to the various human rights instruments

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General had been requested by the African Group to prepare a report on the diverse issues relating to ratification/accession to the various human rights instruments. The present report is submitted pursuant to this request.

2. To prepare the report, the Secretary-General addressed requests on 18 August 1992 and 2 October 1992 to Member States of the concerned region, along with a questionnaire, which is reproduced in the annex to this document.

3. As of 20 October 1992, substantive comments have been received from the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Rwanda, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

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Annex

QUESTIONNAIRE

Part I

Questions with regard to international human rights conventions which have been ratified or acceded to by your State

1. Reporting obligations

What has been your experience with regard to the reporting obligations undertaken in these conventions? In this context, any areas of difficulty, both substantive and procedural, could be highlighted.

2. Communication procedures

In those instances where your Government has also accepted the possibility of individual communications, what has been your experience with regard to these procedures?

3. Other obligations regarding implementation

What has been your experience with regard to questions of compatibility with the domestic law of your State (both constitutional and statutory law), including the question of reservations made to any of these conventions?

Are there any other considerations which, in your experience as a State Party, have caused your Government undue burden in carrying out these obligations?

In the opinion of your State, would the technical/advisory assistance of the Centre for Human Rights be a positive factor in enabling your Government to carry out these obligations?

Part II

Questions with regard to international human rights conventions which have yet to be ratified or acceded to by your State

1. Which factors could you identify which have delayed or inhibited your State's ratification/accession of these conventions?

2. In the opinion of your State, would the technical/advisory assistance of the Centre for Human Rights be a positive factor enabling ratification/ accession of your State to these conventions?

3. Are there any other considerations which in your experience may cause your Government undue burden in carrying out its obligations as a future State Party?